

Message Text

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01044 191226Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 SCA-01 SCS-03 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 /083 W

-----191230Z 095506/10/13

O 0190917Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 778

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE

DIA WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 1044

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSIONS OF TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS EG

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST PRICE INCREASES CONTINUE

REF: CAIRO 1019

1. LATE AFTERNOON/EARLY EVENING JANUARY 18, ELEMENTS OF LARGE CROWDS IN TAHIRI SQUARE/PA AREA TURNED VIOLENT. STONES THROWN, CARS AND BUSES ATTACKED. POLICE, WHO HAD NOT UNTIL THEN INTERFERED, CHARGED CROWDS, USING BATONS AND TEAR GAS. ENTIRE TAHIRI AREA HAD BEEN SEALED OFF AT 1700. BY 2200, TAHIRI CROWDS HAD DISPERSED. BONFIRES WERE SET AT ABOUT 50 METER INTERVALS ALONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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RAMSES STREET TO RIVER; AT 0500 JAN 19, SOME BILLBOARDS ON RAMSES STILL BURNING.

2. AREA NEAR PRESIDENT'S HOME IN GIZA (SADAT IS STILL IN ASWAN) WAS ABSOLUTELY NORMAL UNTIL ABOUT 1730 JAN 18, WHEN CROWDS BEGAN TO COLLECT NEAR SHERATON BRIDGE. BY 1900, STONE THROWING BEGAN AND POLICE CHARGED RIOTERS OUTSIDE SHERATON HOTEL. REGULAR POLICE CORDON PROTECTED SHERATON ALL NIGHT LONG, THOUGH CROWDS COMPLETELY DISPERSED BY 2030. FOUR TANKS NOW GUARD PRESIDENT'S HOUSE ON RIVER SIDE IN UNOBTRUSIVE FASHION.

3. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT VIOLENT ELEMENTS WHICH LAST EVENING THREW ROCKS IN TAHRRIR SQUARE AND ROAMED IN SMALL GANGS THROUGHOUT CENTRAL CAIRO WERE ALMOST ENTIRELY COMPOSED OF YOUNG BOYS OF HIGH SCHOOL AGE. SIGNIFICANTLY, OLDER PEOPLE DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO MOST OF VIOLENCE. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT OLDER WORKERS CONTRIBUTED TO VIOLENCE WHICH ERUPTED IN WORKING CLASS SUBURBS, ESPECIALLY SHUBRA.

4. SITUATION AT 1030 LOCAL (0830Z) JANUARY 19: WHILE TAHRRIR SQUARE STILL CLEAR, THOUSANDS HAVE BEGUN DEMONSTRATE TO NORTH AND EAST, ESPECIALLY NEAR CENTRAL BANK. ROCK THROWING AND PROVOCATION OF POLICE ARE PRIMARILY BY MOST YOUTHFUL OF RIOTERS. POLICE CHARGING CROWDS USING TEAR GAS. MOST SHOPS ARE CLOSED AND PRIVATE CARS ARE BEING KEPT OFF STREETS. POLICE HAVE SEALED OFF MOST OF DOWNTOWN CAIRO. ALL UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED. MOST BUSES AND TAXIS ARE OFF STREETS. FOR FIRST TIME SINCE DEMONSTRATIONS BEGAN, ARMY UNITS WITH RIFLES ARE SPOTTED THROUGHOUT METROPOLITAN CAIRO AND WE HAVE HEARD LOUD REPORTS WHICH MIGHT BE RIFLE SHOTS. WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, SO FAR SEEN CRACK SECURITY RESERVE FORCES.

5. DIRECTOR OF CAIRO SECURITY HAS URGED AMERICANS KEEP OFF STREETS AND CONSULATE WILL INFORM ENQUIRERS THAT THEY SHOULD AVOIDE EXPOSURE IN PUBLIC PLACES. SCHEDULED DEDICATION OF NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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NAMRU MEDICAL RESEARCH WARD AT 100 JAN 19 HAS BEEN POSTPONED ON ADVICE OF EGYPTIAN SECURITY.

6. OUTSIDE CAIRO: CTNSUL SURBER REPORTS 1000 LOCAL JAN 19 THAT ALL QUIET IN PORT SAID JAN 18 AND THIS A.M. NO EYEWITNESS REPORTS FROM HELWAN, BUT BOTH ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC APPEARS GREATLY CURTAILED SINCE AFTERNOON JANUARY 18. HEAVY RAINS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO CALM ALEXANDRIA JAN 19 A.M.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770019-0918
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770193/baaaewha.tel
Line Count: 97
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 879884de-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST PRICE INCREASES CONTINUE
TAGS: PINS, EG
To: STATE INFO ALEXANDRIA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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